GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3940
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
SALE OF LAND AND MILLS OF NTC
Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of land and mills of National Textile Corporation was opposed by various Environmental and Civil Rights Groups;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) to (c) Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG) had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) before the High Court of Mumbai on the issue of sale of mills land of National Textiles Corporation (NTC) in Mumbai, As the decision of the High Court was not in favour of NTC,an appeal was filed before the Supreme Court which, vide judgment dated 07.03.2006 set aside the decision of High Court and upheld sale of land of NTC mills.

In addition, the Indian Trust for Arts & Cultural Heritage (INTACH) had also filed a Writ Petition before the High Court of Mumbai in June, 2005 against the State Government of Maharashtra and seven others including NTC. The Petitioner inter alia prayed for directing the State Govt. of Maharashtra and Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) to ensure that no permission for development or re-development of structures listed as 'Heritage Structures' is granted except in accordance with the Regulation No. 67 of Development Control Regulation (DCR), which provides conservation of listed buildings of historical, esthetical, architectural or cultural value. In February 2006, injunction against demolition of structures in NTC Mill was granted. The High Court, vide their order dated 5th May 2006 allowed NTC to carry out demolition work in India United Mill No.2 & 3 and New Hind Textile Mills. In March 2007, NTC has approached the High Court seeking directions to BMC and Government of Maharashtra to consider following proposals:

To retain 6 Heritage structures at only one site.

Set up Textile Museum at the same site.

NTC would fund Rs. 15 crores for the museum

Allow NTC to demolish other notified structures of the mills to enable it to go ahead with sale of land and implementation of Rehabilitation Scheme approved by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, (BIFR)

The Govt. of Maharashtra has accepted the proposal of NTC and vide its Gazette Notification No.MH/MR/South-229/2006-08 dated 04.03.2008 has notified structures of only India United Mills No.2 & 3. Based on these lines, the High Court of Mumbai has been requested to dispose of the petition.